

It's time for a government OF the people and FOR the people to do something about the corporate control of a public resource: our airwaves and our right to communicate democratically. Specifically, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

If corporations are going to have "news" shows, then they should actually BE fair and balanced, present BOTH sides of a debate, and invite citizen participation. If they are unable to do that, they should get out of the "news" business.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.